



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

# Public Health

**JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Director and Health Officer

**JONATHAN E. FREEDMAN**  
Chief Deputy Director

313 N. Figueroa Street, Room 806  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
(213) 240-8117 – FAX (213) 975-1273

[www.publichealth.lacounty.gov](http://www.publichealth.lacounty.gov)



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Fifth District

June 8, 2009

TO: Each Health Deputy

FROM: Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer

SUBJECT: **NOTICE TO DECLINE TO CONTRACT WITH TWENTY-FIVE  
DRUG/MEDI-CAL AGENCIES**

This is to serve as notification that the Department of Public Health (DPH) is declining to contract with 25 Drug/Medi-Cal (DMC) agencies because of the resource intensive administrative operations required by the DMC program, as well as the financial risks for the County associated with DMC contracts. Attached is the list of the 25 agencies including the names, locations, and Supervisorial District in which they provide services.

On November 5, 2008, the Board of Supervisors delegated the authority to the Director of DPH, or his designee, to decline to contract with agencies for DMC program services, following County Counsel review and approval, and notification to the Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO).

California State Health and Safety Code Section 11758.43 requires the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (SDADP) to contract directly with State-certified DMC providers when the County declines to contract with the provider. However, before it can do so, SDADP requires that the County Board of Supervisors inform SDADP in writing of its intent to not contract with the provider/s. The notification to SDADP has likewise been delegated to the Director of DPH or his designee.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

JEF:dhd

Attachment

c: Jonathan E. Freedman  
Sheila Shima  
Robert Ragland  
Doraine Meyer  
Tami Omoto-Frias  
John Viernes, Jr.



**JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.**  
Director and Health Officer

**JONATHAN E. FREEDMAN**  
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Fifth District

June 8, 2009

Renée Zito, Director  
State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs  
1700 K Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Zito:

**NOTICE OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DECISION TO DECLINE TO CONTRACT  
WITH TWENTY-FIVE STATE CERTIFIED DRUG/MEDI-CAL AGENCIES**

On November 5, 2008, the Board of Supervisors delegated the authority to the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH), or his designee, to decline to contract with agencies for Drug/Medi-Cal program services and to terminate Agreements with other State-certified providers contracted with DPH, following County Counsel review and approval, and notification to the Board and the Chief Executive Office.

This is notification that Los Angeles County is declining to contract with the following 25 agencies:

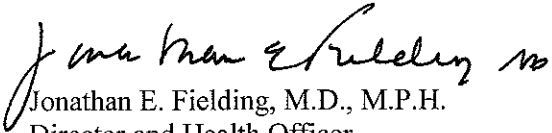
1. A Better You, A Better Me, Inc.
2. Family United-N-New Beginnings
3. Healthy Family Solutions
4. Redirect Your Future, Inc.
5. W.B. Community Learning Center
6. Another Chance Health Services, Inc.
7. Basen, Inc.
8. Crystal Hope Medical Services, Inc.
9. Divine Healthcare Services, Inc.
10. Equilibrium Health Services, Inc.
11. Helping Hands Recovery Center
12. Los Angeles Drug Treatment Center, Inc.
13. LA Recovery Center
14. Medi-Cure Health Services, Inc.
15. New Hope Center, Inc.
16. Ollie Awareness Foundation, Inc.
17. Paz Counseling Services, Inc.
18. Seeking Peaceful Solutions
19. Southwest Care, Inc.
20. Ultimate Lifestyle Center, Inc.
21. VIP Drug and Alcohol Education Center, Inc.

Renee Zito, Director  
June 8, 2009  
Page 2

22. Greenfields Health Services, Inc.
23. New Choice Recovery Treatment Center, Inc.
24. Gift of Hope and Healing, Inc.
25. West Coast Counseling Services, Inc.

Attached is an executed copy of the action by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer

JEF:dhd

Attachment

c: Robert Ragland  
John Viernes, Jr.

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES – DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH  
ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION

NEW APPLICANTS FOR DRUG/MEDI-CAL CONTRACT

1. Reba L. Choyce, Executive Director  
A Better You, A Better Me, Incorporated  
2525 Carson Street, Suite 10  
Lakewood, California 90712  
Supervisory District: 4th
2. Jacquelyn Hammond, Executive Director  
Another Chance Health Services, Incorporated  
363 W. Compton Boulevard  
Compton, California 90220  
Supervisory District: 2nd
3. Bassey Enun-Abara, Executive Director  
Basen, Incorporated  
1230 Crenshaw Boulevard #102  
Torrance, California 90501  
Supervisory District: 4th
4. Tony Onyeagoro, Executive Director  
Crystal Hope Medical Services, Incorporated  
1300 West Olympic Boulevard, Suite 320  
Los Angeles, California 90015  
Supervisory District: 1st
5. Benneth Okorie, Executive Director  
Divine Healthcare Services, Incorporated  
405 West Manchester Boulevard, Suite A  
Inglewood, California 90301  
Supervisory District: 2nd
6. Harry Biosah, Executive Director  
Equilibrium Health Services, Incorporated  
14435 Hamlin Street, Suite 102  
Van Nuys, California 91401  
Supervisory District: 3rd

## **New Applicants for Drug Medi-Cal Contract**

### **Page 2**

7. Helen Sellers, President/Chief Executive Officer  
Family United-N-New Beginnings  
11616 Hawthorne Boulevard, Suite 202  
Hawthorne, California 90250  
Supervisory District: 2nd
8. Mark Awanyai, Executive Director  
Gift of Hope and Healing, Incorporated  
6630 South Van Ness Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90047  
Supervisory District: 2nd
9. David E. Finkelstein, Program Director  
Greenfields Health Services, Incorporated  
637 E. Albertoni Street, Suite 109  
Carson, California 90746  
Supervisory District: 2nd
10. Alejandro Saldana, Chief Executive Officer  
Healthy Family Solutions  
943 East Palmdale Boulevard, Unit-B  
Palmdale, California 93550  
Supervisory District: 5th
11. Henry B. Zachery, Executive Director  
Helping Hands Recovery Center  
9118 South Broadway  
Los Angeles, California 90003  
Supervisory District: 2nd
12. Samuel A. Adeleye, Executive Director  
Los Angeles Drug Treatment Center, Incorporated  
3211 West Imperial Highway  
Inglewood, California 90303  
Supervisory District: 2nd
13. Edward Shkolnikov, President/ Chief Executive Officer  
Los Angeles Recovery Center  
4972 West Pico Boulevard, Suite 208  
Los Angeles, California 90019  
Supervisory District: 2nd

**New Applicants for Drug Medi-Cal Contract**  
**Page 3**

14. Josephine C. Kannike-Martins, Executive Director  
Medi-Cure Health Services, Incorporated  
3756 Santa Rosalia Drive, #417  
Los Angeles, California 90008  
Supervisory District: 2nd
15. Semen Lev, Executive Director  
New Choice Recovery Treatment Center, Incorporated  
5436 Broadway Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90037  
Supervisory District: 2nd
16. Sandra Uweh, Executive Director  
New Hope Center, Incorporated  
606 North Azusa Avenue  
West Covina, California 91791  
Supervisory District: 5th
17. Sylvester Okocha, Executive Director  
Olie Awareness Foundation, Incorporated  
3550 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 1138A  
Los Angeles, California 90010  
Supervisory District: 2nd
18. Anna Shakgheldyan, Executive Director  
Paz Counseling Services, Incorporated  
541 W. Colorado Street, Suite 103  
Glendale, California 91204  
Supervisory District: 5th
19. Christiana W. Kizzee, Executive Director  
Redirect Your Future, Incorporated  
5127 Dawn View Place  
Los Angeles, California 90043  
Supervisory District: 2nd
20. Janisa Spears, Executive Director  
Seeking Peaceful Solutions, Incorporated  
8724 South Vermont Avenue  
Los Angeles, California 90044  
Supervisory District: 2nd

**New Applicants for Drug Medi-Cal Contract**  
**Page 4**

21. Ike R. Chukwudi, Executive Director  
Southwest Care, Incorporated  
2930 W. Imperial Hwy, Suite 511  
Inglewood, California 90303  
Supervisory District: 2nd
22. Macha Lisitsa, Chief Executive Officer  
Ultimate Lifestyle Center  
3550 West 6th Street, Suite 31  
Los Angeles, California 90020  
Supervisory District: 2nd
23. Tigran Sargsyan, Executive Director  
VIP Drug and Alcohol Education Center  
18417 Nordhoff Street, Unit D  
Northridge, California 91235  
Supervisory District: 3rd
24. Lois M. LeBlanc, Executive Director  
W.B. Community Learning Center  
8443 Crenshaw Boulevard, Suite 103  
Inglewood, California 90305  
Supervisory District: 2nd
25. Lou Cannon, Executive Director  
West Coast Counseling Services, Incorporated  
2272 Pacific Avenue, Suite B  
Long Beach, California 90806  
Supervisory District: 4th



JONATHAN E. FIELDING, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer

JONATHAN E. FREEDMAN  
Chief Deputy

313 North Figueroa Street, Room 708  
Los Angeles, California 90012  
TEL (213) 240-8166 • FAX (213) 481-2739

www.publichealth.lacounty.gov



**ADOPTED**  
BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

# 29

NOV 5 2008

*Sachi A. Hamai*  
SACHI A. HAMAI  
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

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First District

Yvonne B. Burke  
Second District

Zev Yaroslavsky  
Third District

Don Knabe  
Fourth District

Michael D. Antonovich  
Fifth District

November 5, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

→ **APPROVAL TO DECLINE CONTRACTING WITH FOUR STATE CERTIFIED  
DRUG/MEDI-CAL AGENCIES  
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

**SUBJECT**

Request approval to decline to contract with Caring Residential Care, Inc., Goretti Health Services, Inc., Ubenete Charity, Inc. and Volunteers of Africa and to provide written notification to the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs about the County's decision not to contract with these four State certified Drug/Medi-Cal agencies, and authorization to decline to contract with other Drug/Medi-Cal agencies that are non-compliant.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:**

1. Delegate authority to the Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH), or his designee, to sign the attached letter to the State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs (SDADP) notifying the State of the County's decision to decline to contract for Drug/Medi-Cal (DMC) services with Caring Residential Care, Inc. (CRC), County Agreement Number H-701241, Goretti Health Services, Inc. (GHS), County Agreement Number H-701116, Ubenete Charity, Inc. (UCI), County Agreement Number H-801677, and Volunteers of Africa (VA), County Agreement Number H-702614.
2. Delegate authority to the Director of DPH, or his designee, to decline to contract with agencies for DMC program services and to terminate Agreements with other



State certified DMC providers contracted with DPH through June 30, 2011, that establish repeated inability to correct deficiencies and failure to fully comply with California Code of Regulation, Title 22, Drug/Medi-Cal requirements, following County Counsel review and approval, and notification to your Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO). The reason for such declination or termination will be fully disclosed to County Counsel, your Board offices and the CEO.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

In approving this action, the Board is declining to contract with CRC, GHS, UCI and VA. These four agencies are State certified to provide DMC services and have provided services to the County through its termination date, June 30, 2008. DPH's Alcohol and Drug Program Administration recommends that the County decline to continue to contract with these agencies because of their repeated inability to correct deficiencies and failure to fully comply with California Code of Regulation, Title 22, Drug/Medi-Cal requirements.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

This action supports Goal 6, Community Services of the County Strategic Plan.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The funds previously obligated to continue contracting with these four agencies may need to be reallocated to other DMC contractors to provide services. However, should SDADP decide to contract directly with these four agencies, the County would need to return to SDADP approximately \$1,524,244 in program and administrative fees.

Funding for the County's DMC program is included in the DPH Fiscal Year 2008-09 Final Budget.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

As a result of Sobky v. Smoley federal ruling, the federal court ordered the SDADP to: 1) ensure availability of Medi-Cal methadone maintenance treatment services throughout the State, either through direct contracts or through subcontracts with various counties, where licensed methadone maintenance treatment programs are available to non-Medi-Cal patients; 2) expedite certain requests for licensed methadone maintenance treatment providers for DMC provider certification; 3) ensure that all DMC eligible persons receive methadone maintenance treatment services with reasonable promptness; and 4) ensure that no DMC eligible person be put on a waiting list to receive services due to budgetary constraints. While the court's judgment specifically focused on methadone maintenance

Honorable Board of Supervisors  
November 5, 2008  
Page 3

treatment services, the SDADP applied the judgment to all drug abuse treatment programs supported by DMC funding. Although the State determines provider eligibility, the County can choose to reject to contract with a State certified provider. However, before it can do so, SDADP requires that the County Board of Supervisors or an authorized designee provide written notification of its decision not to contract with the agency.

Attachment A is the County's letter to SDADP advising the State it will not contract with the four certified agencies. County Counsel has reviewed and approved the letter as to form.

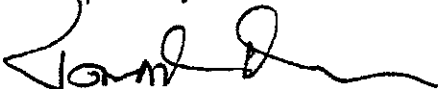
**IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

There is no impact on current services. California State Health and Safety Code Section 11758.43 requires SDADP to contract directly with State certified agencies, when the County declines to contract with the agencies.

**CONCLUSION**

When approved, DPH requires four signed copies of your Board's action.

Respectfully submitted,



 Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer

Attachment (1)

JEF:lm

c: Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors

ATTACHMENT A

November 10, 2008

Renée Zito, Director  
State Department of Alcohol and Drug Programs  
1700 K Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Ms. Zito:

**NOTICE OF THE COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES BOARD OF SUPERVISORS'  
DECISION TO DECLINE TO CONTRACT WITH FOUR STATE CERTIFIED  
DRUG MEDI-CAL AGENCIES**

On \_\_\_\_\_, the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors voted to approve a motion declining to continue to contract with the following State-certified Drug/Medi-Cal agencies:

1. Caring Residential Care, Inc.
2. Goretti Health Services, Inc.
3. Ubenete Charity, Inc.
4. Volunteers of Africa

Attached is an executed copy of our Board's action.

Very truly yours,

Jonathan E. Fielding, M.D., M.P.H.  
Director and Health Officer

JEF:lm

Attachment

c: Wayne K. Sugita M.P.A., Acting Director  
Chief Executive Officer  
County Counsel  
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors